cular textures of animals, and in the urine of man after quinine had been taken. By this means we have shown that in guineapigs, in fifteen minutes, the quinine has certainly passed into all the vascular, and most probably into the extra-vascular textures. In three hours the amount of quinine in the textures may be at the maximum; and for six hours it does not much diminish. In twenty-four hours the quinine sinks very considerably, and in forty-eight hours it is scarcely perceptible anywhere.

By similar experiments on cataracts in man, it appears that in two hours and a quarter traces of quinine may be found in the lens.

After quinine has been taken, it begins to appear in the urine in from ten to twenty minutes; in from two to three hours it has reached its maximum; in from three or four, or at longest eight hours, it begins to decrease; in twenty-four hours it has very much decreased; in forty-eight hours its presence is still detectable; but in seventy-two hours not a trace of it can be found.

April 19, 1866.

Lieut.-General SABINE, President, in the Chair.

The following communications were read:—

I. "Account of the Discovery of the Body of a Mammoth, in Arctic Siberia," in a Letter from Dr. Carl Ernst von Baer, of St. Petersburgh, For. Mem. R.S. Received April 17, 1866.

A la Société Royale de Londres.

Présumant que la Société Royale de Londres prendra peut-être quelque intérêt à la découverte nouvelle d'un mammouth avec sa peau et ses poils dans le sol gelé de la Sibérie arctique, je ne veux pas manquer de lui faire cette communication.

Déjà en 1864 ce mammouth a été trouvé par un Samoïède dans les environs de la baie du Tas, bras oriental du grand golfe de l'Obi. Ce n'est que vers la fin de l'an 1865, que j'en ai reçu la nouvelle. Mais comme dans ces régions les corps des grandes bêtes se conservent longtemps, s'ils ne sont pas pleinement mis à découvert, et que ce mammouth, au moins en 1864, restait encore enchâssé dans les terres gelées, l'Académie de St. Pétersbourg a expédié, avec l'aide du gouvernement, au mois de février de l'année courante, M. Fréd. Schmidt, paléontologue distingué, pour examiner non-seulement l'animal, mais aussi sa position dans la localité. Nous espérons que M. Schmidt arrivera avant que la destruction soit trop avancée, et qu'on aura non-seulement connaissance complète de l'extérieur de l'animal, mais aussi de sa nourriture par la dissection de l'estomac. Ce serait la première fois qu'un naturaliste soit venu à temps pour ces recherches, car Adams, comme on sait, est arrivé trop tard. Il a trouvé les crins tombés de la peau et a pleinement négligé d'examiner la nourriture.

Un rapport plus détaillé sur la trouvaille de ce mammouth et sur l'expé-

dition est sous presse et j'aurai l'honneur de la transmettre à la Société Royale. Mais les nouvelles de ce qu'a trouvé M. Schmidt ne peuvent arriver qu'après quelques mois. DR. CH. ERN. DE BAER.

St. Pétersbourg, $\frac{30 \text{ Mars}}{11 \text{ Avril}}$ 1866.

II. "On the Bursa Fabricii." By JOHN DAVY, M.D., F.R.S., &c. Received March 24, 1866.

In this paper I have the honour to submit to the Society some observations which I have made on the Bursa Fabricii—an organ respecting the function of which so little has yet been determined with any certainty, some physiologists regarding it, after the manner of the author who first described it, as a receptaculum seminis, others as the analogue of Cowper's glands, others as that of the prostate; and one as that of the urinary bladder of fishes.

For the sake of order and to save some repetition, before entering into particulars it may not be amiss to state briefly that this peculiar organ, in every instance it is met with, is found to lie low in the cavity of the pelvis, behind the intestine, either directly in the median line, or a little on one side of it; that it is covered anteriorly by the reflected peritoneum; is composed mainly of two coats, one an outer muscular, the other an inner mucous, the latter in the instances of most development abounding in follicles; that it communicates with the cloaca by an opening, in the female, close to the entrance of the oviduct, in the male between and a little inferior to that of each vas deferens, in both inferior to the termination of the ureters*; and that it has over its orifice, when most perfect, a slight valvular fold, affording some, but not perfect, security against the entrance into its cavity of fæcal matter whilst passing in the act of expulsion.

What is remarkable in this organ, giving rise to much of the obscurity adverted to, is the different aspects which it exhibits in the same animal according to age, and the differences as to form and proportional size and degree of persistence which it presents in different species.

The number of birds in which I have sought for the organ, and have examined it when found, has been considerable, at least thirty different species, all of them, with the exception of the skylark, belonging to or frequenters of the Lake district.

I may further briefly premise that, when the microscope has been used, the power employed has been that of $\frac{1}{8}$th inch focal distance, and that, when

* The ureters in those birds in which they are most easily traced, such as the common fowl, turkey, goose, I have found not to terminate in the cloaca, but just above it, near, or in the margin of the inner anal aperture (anus interne of M. Milne-Edwards), *i. e.* the orifice of the rectum into the cloaca; and, in consequence, the urinary excretion is voided adhering to the inferior portion of the fæcal mass which accumulates in the lower rectum—which is unusually capacious and glandular; accordingly, from such observations as I have made, I cannot but entertain great doubt of the cloaca being the proper place for the reception of the urine before its expulsion.